

Message Text

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ACTION DIWY-01

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TAGS: PORG, SHUM, MX

SUBJECT: TEXT OF STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR BARBARA M. WHITE,

JULY 1, 1975

IN COMMITTEE II, WCIWY

FOR MRS. ELIZABETH HAGERTY, D/IWY, STATE

1. BEGIN QUOTE AS THE CHAIRMAN OF OUR DELEGATION REMAINED THE PLENARY SESSION ON JUNE 28, BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA ARE AT THIS MOMENT ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS TO REMOVE MANY OF THE LONG-STANDING DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES THROUGH AGREEMENT ON A NEW, JUST, AND EQUITABLE TREATY RELATING TO THE CANAL ZONE. THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE SENSITIVE AND INVOLVE VERY COMPLEX ISSUES ON BOTH SIDES. AS LATE AS MAY 10, 1975, THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT INDICATING THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAD MADE IMPORTANT ADVANCES, BUT THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAD TO MAKE FURTHER EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE REAL AND VISIBLE PROGRESS. THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO AGREE WITH THIS LINE OF THINKING, AND MY DELEGATION WELCOMES INDICATIONS BY THE PANAMANIAN REPRESENTATIVE HERE THAT THIS IS ALSO THE

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INTENTION OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

2. REGARDING THE REFERENCE THAT THE DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE OF PANAMA JUST MADE TO ACTION IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LAST WEEK, I WOULD POINT OUT THAT THE VOTE WAS BY A MAJORITY OF APPROXIMATELY 2-1 -- NOT ALMOST UNANIMOUS, AS WAS STATED -- AND THAT LEGISLATION REQUIRES ACTION BY BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE IN ORDER TO BE ENACTED. THE SENATE HAS NOT YET TAKEN UP THE ISSUE.

3. MR. CHAIRMAN, THE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE.

4. I PARTICULARLY REGRET THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE RAISED IN THIS FORUM, WHERE WE HAVE WITH DILIGENCE AND A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION -- AND I BELIEVE CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS -- BEEN DEDICATING OURSELVES TO OUR SPECIAL CONCERNS OF THE EQUALITY AND FULL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN.

5. FOR THE REASONS I HAVE STATED, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT IT IS UNNECESSARY AND INAPPROPRIATE FOR THIS CONFERENCE TO TAKE UP A QUESTION THAT IS CURRENTLY UNDER BILATERAL NEGOTIATION IN A MANNER SATISFACTORY TO BOTH PARTIES. FURTHERMORE, MY GOVERNMENT CANNOT SUPPORT THE PREJUDICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE DRAFT BEFORE US. MY DELEGATION WILL, THEREFORE, REQUEST A VOTE AND STRONGLY URGE THAT THOSE WHO BELIEVE THIS MATTER IS BEST RESOLVED THROUGH THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WILL JOIN US IN ABSTAINING ON THIS RESOLUTION END QUOTE
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